

## REPORTED INCIDENCE OF SYPHILIS

### Objective

By 1990, reported primary and secondary syphilis incidence should be reduced to a rate of seven cases per 100,000 population per year, with a reduction in congenital syphilis to 1.5 cases per 100,000 children under one year of age.

### Findings

The North Carolina syphilis rate has fluctuated widely from a high of 23.7 in 1976 to a low 8.1 in 1979. Recent declines both nationally and in North Carolina may involve behavior changes in homosexual males to prevent AIDS. Based on these declines, the state rate is projected to decline to about 6.4 in 1990, below the target rate of 7.0. The U.S. may also meet this part of the objective. (3)

In North Carolina, the congenital syphilis rate has declined from 30.5 in 1970 to zero in 1986. Based on 1982 to 1986 trends, the 1990 target rate of 1.5 will be met. In contrast, the U.S. congenital syphilis rate increased in the early eighties to 6.5 in 1984; this is believed to be due to surveillance and reporting artifacts (3).

### Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics  
United States: Centers for Disease Control